UTAH CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
ON
CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEMILITARIZATION

Thursday, November 13, 2003
Tooele Public Health Building
151 North Main Street
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Those in attendance:
Michael Keene
Beverly White
Deborah Kim
Geoff Silcox
John Bennett
Dan Bauer

Members absent:
Dennis Downs
Rosemary Holt
Jane Bowman
Sid Hullinger
David Ostler

1. Welcome/Minutes – Deborah Kim

The meeting was called to order by CAC Chair, Deborah Kim at 6:30 p.m. The minutes for September were approved with a few minor editing changes. The motion was made by Geoff Silcox with a second by Beverly White. The minutes from July still need to be accepted by the council.

2. Follow-up items – Deborah Kim

a. **Briefing on visit to JACADS –** Deborah Kim was one of about 60 people that attended the official closure of Johnston Island (JI). Debbie gave an overview of the history of Johnston Island. She showed some photos of the island and of the facility. Debbie provided a handout of a research project that was conducted on the birds of Johnston Island for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Services.

3. Deseret Chemical Depot Update – Colonel Cooper

There were 17 leakers since the last CAC meeting, due to the change in temperature. Security status has not changed for the Depot, and it is expected to continue. The leakers were inside the ONCS and we monitored them before they were opened. Most of them are 155MM ton containers.

Q-DK-The 155 projectiles are leaking? Did you see this with GB?
A-We saw this more with GB than with VX. It depends on the configuration. With mustard there are two leak cycles; the first happens when mustard freezes and the second occurs when it melts.

There are only 277 rockets left. This is a great milestone. All the rockets will be gone soon!

4. Program Status – Dale Ormond

Aberdeen currently restarted operations after a shutdown for 2 ½ months for maintenance. There was engineering work performed on the glove boxes. There was a problem with the containments in the agent.

Johnston Island is officially closed. It disposed of about 7% of the US chemical weapons stockpile. The original plan was to leave the structures, however they hired a demolition and destruction contractor. This has started the talks about taking down the buildings in Tooele as they did at Johnston Island. It is a less expensive proposition to take down the buildings when compared to other options.

No questions were asked by the CAC members.

5. Plant Status/Restart Update – Stephen Frankiewicz

There have been 482 days without a time lost injury. There have been no agent releases and no events to report.

The VX rocket destruction should be completed by the end of next week. This was delayed a week due to a problem with the feed gate to the DFS.

The plant will begin the mine changeover from Nov-March 2004. We are anticipating beginning mustard destruction in January 2005. Mercury contamination has been found in the ton containers. It is estimated that about 15% of the ton containers contain mercury. We are exploring ways to handle this issue. Secondary waste is also a problem, but we are looking at the ways to get rid of it. Plant closure talks have begun.

In regards to some unfinished business, Mr. Frankiewicz discussed corrosion problems and the turnover at the plant in response to questions from commissioners at previous meetings.

The corrosion problems which have been noted with the decontamination system following the change from GB to VX agent destruction appear to be under control now. The pipes which had problems with corrosion have been replaced with Teflon lined pipes.

Q-DK-How long does Teflon hold up?
A-We do not have any data on that; however, we do not expect any problems.

Statement regarding personnel turnover:

The turnover at plant is less than 7%. Our projected turnover rate is 6.57%. Our present turnover rate is 6.35%, year to date.

Q-GS-How many employees do you have working for you at the present time? What is the range?
A-We have 727 employees right now. I do not know highs and lows.
DB-This turnover rate is excellent compared to industry, which is somewhere around 30%.

Q-DK- Have the people from the EPA had a chance to have any discussions with you and has the option of bringing in the regulators from Region 9 to discuss issues with our regulators [permitting concerns]?
A- Chris Bittner-We talk with all the other regulators in all the other states and regions that have chemical weapons.

Q-GS-Have there been any further discussions about using alternate technology for mustard destruction?
A-We are looking at neutralization and post pass filtration.

Q-GS- At JACADS, did they pulverize the carbon waste?
A-Dale Ormond-Yes they pulverized it and used a micronization process to assist with the destruction of the carbon waste.
Q-What was the result?
A- Micronization is difficult and slow. It worked but took a lot of scheduling. There may be other options, which would include reviewing sampling and analytical methods. We need to have further discussions with the regulators. The carbon micronization machine is here if we need it.
Q- Couldn't the carbon be put through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) without pulverizing it at all?
A-The permit process took 4 years. We are starting to begin discussions with the state in a month. The main issue with the MPF centers around the sampling process which would be required in order to prove there is no remaining agent contained in the carbon waste. At JI, it was easier to pulverize it.

Q-GS-How did the DCD trial burn and agent monitoring problem get resolved?
A - The trial burn shows that we are doing fine. Our conclusion will be we had some contamination in the sampling tray.
Q-DK-What was the other process you referred to?
A-Post pass filtration. Post pass filters are designed to capture agent if they had a release. Our plan would include a process to absorb the mercury in the vapor state in the exhaust gases. This way, we would be removing the mercury at the end as opposed to taking the mercury out of some place else in the process. These are all options we are exploring.
Q-GS-Will mustard ton containers be treated for mercury the same way as GB?
A-There are a number of options and issues to get through in order to be ready for the campaign.

6. DSHW Update – Chris Bittner for Marty Gray

For the DFS, they are allowed to move at ¾ rate. They needed to move at a full rate for a trial burn. The other furnaces are allowed to move at 100% feed rate.

Q-We understand that the feeds got jammed today? Is there an engineering change that needs to be considered?
A-Spraying the feeds seems to help the buildup of agent. They are looking at it now, we don't know yet. It could be a rocket part that got stuck as well.

7. New Business –

a. Revised Exposure Limits – VX/GB – Deborah Kim

The federal register was provided that explains the higher exposure limits. Dr. Paul Joe has offered to come to review and debrief us on the new exposure limits.

Joe Majestic, Deputy General Manager discussed the exposure limits. These levels are very conservative. The new exposure limits significantly reduce exposure to about 1/3 of what had been recommended in the past. The use of the new recommendations provided by the CDC, now become action levels. If we exceed short term exposure level (STEL) for 15 minutes, the workers with that exposure are done for the day. We are talking with the other sites to determine how to implement these changes. There are various issues associated with this, including permit modifications. There will definitely be an increase in monitoring of the non-alarming ACAMS. The workload analytically increases substantially.

Q-DK-There is an amendment proposed. How will this impact monitoring?
A-The amendment states that the Army needs to look at other methods of agent vapor detection and how to look for, if other methods exist, then need to implement. The Army does this and continues to do so.
A-DK -How do the numbers translate to outside exposure? Going off post?
A-JM - Perimeter monitoring/detection is performed outside of plant by previously placed monitors. This is more of an issue for other sites.
We know there will be several impacts, based on time weighted average (TWA). This is the same for hazardous waste monitoring. We are not exactly sure where we are with the recommend changes. We are willing to discuss the technical/risk assessment issues if the CAC is interested.
DK-This is more of a sounds like this is more of a CSEPP issue.

Q-Mark Mesesan - What about worker exposure? Hoe does this affect all limits?
Joe Majestic- It affects everything. The limits are lowered for all activities especially regarding the worker perspective. There are changing limits for mustard and we are watching the limits for that as well.

DK-When a worker reaches threshold under new guidelines wearing PPE is he/she still able to work?

A-Yes, most of the toxic areas are expected to be above those levels. All PPE is assigned a protection factor. This is applicable to all workers. We credit the PPE to keep them safe.
Q-GS-Are you in situation that you cannot increase the sensitivity to the alarms without getting false positives?
A-We worry about false positives and response to real alarms

No further questions were asked by the CAC members.

8. **Questions from the Community**:

There were no questions or comments from the community.

9. **Follow up agenda items for the January 2004 meeting will include**:

1. Disassembling weapons and data on the chemical composition. (Marty Gray).
2. Report on the Environmental Forum Conference, held in Little Rock, Arkansas – Gene White/Dennis Downs
3. Discussion regarding inviting Dr. Paul Joe from the CDC to discuss the Risk Assessment Model.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Beverly White, and seconded by Geoff Silcox. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

The next meeting: January 15, 2004, 6:00 p.m. Dept. of Environmental Quality in Salt Lake City.